

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. - 9. (Canceled)

10. (Currently amended) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell comprising:

a base layer,

said base layer including: (a) a carbonized yarn of a woven fabric, and (b) a solidified carbonized binder impregnated into the yarn thereby and connecting filaments of the yarn, ~~both said woven fabric and said binder being carbonized after said binder has been impregnated into said woven fabric.~~

11. - 18. (Canceled)

19. (Currently amended) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell comprising:

a base layer,

said base layer including: (a) a non-woven carbon paper ~~made from~~ comprising carbon fibers, and (b) a synthetic carbonized resin binder impregnated into the carbon paper, the binder impregnated into a first portion of the carbon paper in an amount such that the first portion more rigid than a second portion of the carbon paper, and omitted from or impregnated into the second portion in an amount such that the second portion is more flexible than the first portion, the first and the second portions being distributed in alternating planar regions across the base layer ~~with a nonuniform distribution in an impregnation amount in a direction of a plane of the carbon paper, wherein a first portion of said base layer including a major amount of the binder is impregnated constructing a rigid portion of said base layer, and a second portion of said base layer including a minor amount of the binder is impregnated constructing is a deformable portion of said base layer.~~

20. - 24. (Canceled)

25. (Original) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell comprising:
a base layer having opposite surfaces; and
a water-repellent layer made from a mixture of carbon and synthetic resin formed on one surface of said base layer, said water-repellent layer being constructed of a multi-layer structure including an inner layer and an outer layer different in adhesiveness and strength to each other, said inner layer having a strength greater than a strength of said outer layer, said outer layer having an adhesiveness stronger than an adhesiveness of said inner layer.

26. - 28. (Canceled)

29. (Currently amended) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell comprising:
~~a water-repellent layer including two kinds of binders, wherein said two kinds of binders include~~ a first water-repellent layer including a first binder made from a synthetic resin having an adhesiveness, and a second water-repellent layer including a second binder made from material having a higher rigidity than said synthetic resin of said first binder.

30. - 33. (Canceled)

34. (Currently amended) A diffusion layer for a fuel cell, comprising:
a base layer; and
a water-repellent layer coated on said base layer, said water-repellent layer ~~being made from~~ including a mixture of solidified carbon and synthetic resin ~~and solidified, said synthetic resin being deformed into~~ containing filaments of synthetic resin particles ~~by applying a shear force to said mixture before coating of said mixture onto said base layer, thereby increasing an adhesiveness of the water-repellent layer.~~

35. - 39. (Canceled)